

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 612

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to commend Ms. Gay Shepherd upon receiving the Love Community Service Award and for her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gay Shepherd is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors and was recently awarded the Love Community Service Award for outstanding community service performed at the campus level by students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Cookeville, Ms. Shepherd is a highly respected member of her community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure as Director of University Police of Tennessee Technological University, Gay Shepherd has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, during her service to the university, Ms. Shepherd has initiated several programs to ensure the safety of students, faculty, staff, and administrators they include the

Crime Stoppers Program, implemented in 1993 to help prevent potential crime problems before they start, and the University Crime Stoppers, a broader-based program comprised of colleges and hospitals in the Middle Tennessee area; and

WHEREAS, Gay Shepherd also introduced the Community Watch Program at Tennessee Tech to increase safety awareness on campus; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shepherd's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, using a puppet named "Bandit," Gay Shepherd educates children living in the university's housing area and area K-3 grade students on how to watch out for and handle emergency situations when their parents are not around. She also participates in a program initiated by the District Attorney General's Office to educate the community and children about sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shepherd assisted the 13th Judicial Drug Task Force in an undercover operation that resulted in the arrest of several people involved in the largest crack cocaine operation to date in Putnam County, and since that time, has been an agent with the Task Force, participating in a number of drug round-ups and raids; and

WHEREAS, Gay Shepherd is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor in Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, the Love Community Service Award is named in honor of the late Representative Harold Love, who sponsored the legislation to create the program as a way to recognize individuals committed to community service involved in Tennessee's higher education institutions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the award are nominated by college and university administrators and teachers, students, or members of the public, and are students, faculty, and

staff members who have displayed a high level of community service. The nominations are then submitted to a task force comprised of representatives from the Independent Colleges, Tennessee Board of Regents, and the University of Tennessee, who review the letters of recommendation and decide on the finalists; and

WHEREAS, Gay Shepherd will be honored at the annual Love Community Service Awards Banquet in Nashville on April 12, 2000, where she will receive \$1,000 for her efforts; and

WHEREAS, seven Tennessee Tech faculty members, staff personnel, and students have won the award since its inception in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shepherd is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Ms. Gay Shepherd on her receipt of the Love Community Service Award, applaud her honorable service to Tennessee Technological University, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.